

Appendix table 7-38

Public assessment of whether the quality of science and mathematics education in American schools is inadequate, by respondent characteristic: 2008

(Percent)

Characteristic	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
All adults (<i>n</i> = 2,021)	21	49	22	2	6
Sex					
Male (<i>n</i> = 918)	20	52	22	2	5
Female (<i>n</i> = 1,103)	22	47	22	2	8
Formal education					
<High school (<i>n</i> = 283)	16	47	24	2	10
High school graduate (<i>n</i> = 632)	16	48	25	2	9
Some college (<i>n</i> = 550)	21	49	25	1	4
Baccalaureate (<i>n</i> = 356)	27	51	17	1	4
Graduate/professional degree (<i>n</i> = 200)	32	53	8	1	5
Science/mathematics education ^a					
Low (<i>n</i> = 1,199)	19	48	23	2	8
Middle (<i>n</i> = 340)	24	51	20	2	2
High (<i>n</i> = 395)	28	53	17	*	2
Family income (quartile) ^b					
Top (<i>n</i> = 381)	29	49	17	1	4
Second (<i>n</i> = 485)	20	53	21	1	5
Third (<i>n</i> = 411)	17	53	23	1	5
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 506)	18	45	27	3	7
Age (years) ^b					
18–24 (<i>n</i> = 173)	12	41	41	3	2
25–34 (<i>n</i> = 346)	16	54	25	1	5
35–44 (<i>n</i> = 377)	19	53	20	2	6
45–54 (<i>n</i> = 421)	26	48	18	2	6
55–64 (<i>n</i> = 335)	28	49	19	1	3
≥65 (<i>n</i> = 354)	23	49	12	1	15
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^c					
Top (<i>n</i> = 559)	28	50	17	1	3
Second (<i>n</i> = 566)	24	51	22	1	3
Third (<i>n</i> = 521)	14	51	25	2	8
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 375)	16	43	25	2	15

* = <0.5% responded

^aLow = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses. Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.^bCategories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.^cQuartiles based on percentage of nine questions in trend factual knowledge of science scale answered correctly. See notes to appendix table 7-8 for questions.NOTES: Responses to *The quality of science and mathematics education in American schools is inadequate*. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2008).

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